31st July 1933]

Police

Transfer of the Malabar Special Police at Malappuram to the charge of Military officers.

* 2 *Q.*—Mr. V. P. Narayanan Nambiyar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are contemplating to put the Malabar Special Police stationed at Malappuram in charge of Military officers; and

(*b*) if so, the circumstances under which such change has been thought necessary?

A.—(*a*) The Government have under consideration a proposal to officer the Malabar Special Police by officers seconded from the Indian Army.

(*b*) The change is proposed on general grounds of efficiency, particularly in view of the fact that the present arrangement results in a shortage of police officers in the ordinary line and adversely affects the training of young police officers posted to special duty with the Malabar Special Police.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" May I know from the hon. Member whether there were cases against the present officers of inefficiency on account of which the Government seem to have resorted to this new method of bringing in Army men? "

The hon. Sir Mahomed Usman:—" That is not the case, Sir. I may say that this was a subject which formed one of the Part II schemes for 1933–34. It was passed by the Finance Committee. As a result of it an item was included in the budget memorandum. The note for the Finance Committee has been placed in the Legislative Council Library, from which my hon. Friend will get the fullest information."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" May I know whether the Government is aware that there has been a strong feeling against this force throughout Malabar and particularly among the Mappillas of Malabar, who have expressed themselves against it in several conferences? Will it not aggravate the situation if military men are appointed instead of policemen to command these forces? "

The hon. Sir Mahomed Usman:—" I do not think it will aggravate the situation in any way."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" May I know if it is not a fact that there is difference between having an army and having police in a place and whether, in view of the fact that the Government is bringing Military officers in place of policemen, it may not be tantamount to having military rule in Malabar instead of having only police stationed? "

The hon. Sir Mahomed Usman:—" No, Sir. Military officers will do exactly the same duties as the Police officers are doing to-day."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—"May I know, Sir, how many officers are intended to be appointed there and how it will affect the strength of Police officers in the ordinary line?"

The hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"All this has been stated in the note that has been placed in the Legislative Council Library."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know, Sir, whether the present officers have had no military training?"

The hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"They might have had. That does not alter the situation."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"May I know if these officers are going to be recruited from officers in active military service or from retired Military officers?"

The hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"The whole question is now the subject of correspondence between this Government and the Government of India."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know, Sir, whether they are going to be Indian officers or non-Indian officers—I mean those that are going to be in charge of this special Police?"

The hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"I have nothing to add, Sir, to what I have already stated."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"May I say, Sir, if the hon. the Home Member assumes that attitude of not taking this Council into confidence, it will not be very helpful? Are we to be satisfied with these unenlightening answers, Sir?"

The hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"May I say again, Sir, that the whole note on the subject has been placed before the Finance Committee which passed the scheme. That note is now in the Legislative Council Library. My hon. Friend has only to read it to obtain full information. This shows that the Government have taken the Council into their confidence. This note, as I said, was first placed before the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee passed the scheme. As a result of it, some items were included in the budget which this Council passed. So the Council has put its seal of approval on the policy of Government relating to this matter."

Forests

Representation of the Catholic Association of South Kanara regarding forest concessions.

* 3 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Catholic Association of South Kanara have represented to the Government the necessity for suspending the order cancelling the concessions granted to villagers in reserve forests including Hosabettu and Todar; and

(*b*) whether the Government have considered this representation and taken any action in regard to it?